

MONTANA CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY CENTER

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Subject: High Winds	
Policy Number: STP 16	Standards/Statutes: ARM 37.27.121
Effective Date: 01/01/02	Page 1 of 2

PURPOSE: To coordinate activities within the facility in the event of high Winds.

POLICY: To provide staff and patients with a safe and coordinated plan when responding to an emergency.

PROCEDURE:

- A. If a "watch" is issued:
 - B. Bring all patients inside the building
 - C. Close windows and doors
 - D. Stay tuned to broadcast media (radio, television) for further notices.

 - E. If a "warning" is issued:
 - F. Move patients into hallways, away from outside windows and doors (the safest hallways are those situated at right angles to the wind direction)
 - G. Clear large rooms (dining rooms, group rooms, etc) of all patients and staff
 - H. Open windows and doors to the leeward side of the building if the warning is for a tornado (tornadoes generally move from southwest to northeast); stay away from the opened windows and doors

 - I. When high winds strike, remain in place (it is best to be seated or crouched in hallways).

 - J. When winds subside:
 - K. Calm patients and check for injuries
 - L. Check the building for fires and structural damage
- II. WATER OUTAGE
- A. If there is a fire or severe damage, partial evacuation may be necessary. If damage is widespread in the facility, total evacuation may be necessary.

- III. Stay away from fallen utility wires.
- IV. Keep windows open for ventilation if a gas leak is suspected.
 - A. Windstorms are of two types:
 - B. Mass air movements accompanying storm fronts (winds of 40 to 60 mph, with gusts up to 80 mph).
 - C. Tornadoes-a rotating column of air that descends from a thunderstorm cloud system (may have a rotational speed of 80 to 200 mph and a forward speed of 20 to 60 mph).
- V. The first type of windstorm is more common to this area, but tornadoes can occur.
 - A. There are two classes of alerts for destructive storms:
 - B. WATCH-conditions exist that may develop into a severe storm.
 - C. WARNING-a severe storm has been sighted or indicated by radar and may strike the area.
- VI. In this part of the country, most tornadoes are quite small; there is little likelihood of any advance warning of their occurrence.
- VII. DAMAGE from windstorms may include:
 - A. Broken windows and doors
 - B. Roof damage
 - C. Damage to vehicles from debris propelled by wind
 - D. Structural damage to buildings from debris, such as toppled trees and limbs
 - E. Fallen utility lines
 - F. Accumulation of dust and dirt
 - G. Severe damage to buildings and vehicles from tornadoes
 - H. Fire resulting from downed utility lines or gas leaks
- VIII. INJURIES from windstorms could be:
 - A. Concussions and bone fractures from falling or flying debris
 - B. Laceration and abrasions from falling or flying debris
 - C. Similar injuries from being "blown over"
 - D. Burns
 - E. Electrical shock

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